

UNDERSTANDING

Instinct, Intuition, Knowledge and Receptive

1. ESSENCE

- 5330 Knowledge is an infinite series of images in the memory.
Understanding, which penetrates into their significance, is
the power to perceive their essence and interrelationship.
Kabbalah (B.C. 1200?-700? A.D.)
- 5331 Intuition is the clear conception of the whole at once.
Lavater (1741-1801)
- 5332 Instinct is the nose of the mind.
Delphine Girardin (1804-1855)
- 5333 Instinct is intelligence incapable of self-consciousness.
John Sterling (1806-1844)

2. OPPOSITES

- 5334 In order to contract, It is necessary first to expand.
In order to weaken, It is necessary first to strengthen.
In order to destroy, It is necessary first to promote.
In order to grasp, It is necessary first to give.
This is called subtle light.
The weak and the tender overcome the hard and the strong.
Lao-Tzu (fl. B.C. 600)
- 5335 To know is not to know, unless someone else has known that
I know.
Lucillius (B.C. 148-103)
- 5336 Learned men delight in knowledge; the ignorant do not.
Honey bees resort to flowers; not so the fly.
Saskya Pandita (1182-1251)
- 5337 Sell your cleverness and buy bewilderment;
Cleverness is mere opinion, bewilderment is intuition.
Jalal-Uddin Rumi (1207-1273)
- 5338 All things I thought I knew; but now confess
The more I know I know, I know the less.
John Owen (1560-1622)
- 5339 Ignorance is the curse of God;
knowledge is the wing wherewith we fly to heaven.
Shakespeare (1564-1616)

- 5340 The light of the understanding-
humility kindleth and pride covereth.
Quarles (1592-1644)
- 5341 It is a common fault never to be satisfied with our fortune,
nor dissatisfied with our understanding.
La Rochefoucauld (1613-1680)
- 5342 Knowledge is proud that he has learned so much;
Wisdom is humble that he knows no more.
Cowper (1731-1800)
- 5343 That is indeed twofold knowledge, which profits alike
by the folly of the foolish, and the wisdom of the wise.
It is both a shield and a sword; it borrows its security
from the darkness, and its confidence from the light.
Colton (1780-1832)
- 5344 Not every end is a goal. The end of a melody is not its
goal; however, if the melody has not reached its end, it
would also not have reached its goal. A parable.
Nietzsche (1844-1900)
- 5345 The noumenal is the real, the phenomenal, the reflection,
and the wise man seeks the former rather than the latter.
C. Spurgeon Medhurst (born 1850?)
- 5346 To understand is hard.
Once one understands, action is easy.
Sun Yat-sen (1866-1925)

3. INSIGHT

- 5347 At the outset, the man does not comprehend the nature of
prevailing forces nor does he perceive them as a connected
whole. This superficial view is acceptable for the masses,
but the superior man should know better.
I Ching (B.C. 1150?)
- 5348 He that hath knowledge spareth his words.
Proverbs (B.C. 1000?-200?)
- 5349 Know thou the self (spirit) as riding in a chariot,
The body as the chariot.
Know thou the intellect as the chariot-driver,
And the mind as the reins.
The senses, they say, are the horses;
The objects of sense, what they range over.
The self combined with senses and mind
Wise men call "the enjoyer."
Upanishads (c. B.C. 800)

- 5350 Only by undivided devotional service can The Eternal be understood and seen directly. Only in this way can you enter into the mysteries of eternal understanding.
Bhagavad Gita (c. B.C. 400)
- 5351 One part of knowledge consists in being ignorant of such things as are not worthy to be known.
Crates (fl. B.C. 320)
- 5352 Not to know what happened before one was born is always to be a child.
Cicero (B.C. 106-43)
- 5353 Nature has given us the seeds of knowledge, not knowledge itself.
Seneca (B.C. 3-65 A.D.)
- 5354 He who knows one thing, knows all things;
and he who knows all things, knows one thing.
He who is careless in all respects, is in danger;
he who is not careless in all respects, is free from danger.
Nagarjuna (c. 100-200 A.D.)
- 5355 One man is equivalent to all Creation.
One man is a World in miniature.
Nathan (fl. 200 A.D.)
- 5356 Mark well how varied are aspects of the immovable one,
And know that the first reality is immovable;
Only when this insight is attained,
The true working of suchness is understood.
Hui-Neng (638-713 A.D.)
- 5357 Indeed, the whole world is imagination,
while He is the Real in Reality.
Whoever understand this
knows all the secrets of the Spiritual Path.
Ibn Al-'Arabi (1165-1240)
- 5358 Whoever acquires knowledge but does not practice it
is as one who ploughs but does not sow.
Saadi (1184-1291)
- 5359 The knower and the known are one. Simple people imagine
that they should see God, as if He stood there and they
here. This is not so. God and I, we are one in knowledge.
Meister Eckhart (1260-1327)
- 5360 All our knowledge has its origins in our perceptions.
Leonardo Da Vinci (1452-1519)

- 5361 The eye of the understanding is like the eye of the sense; for as you may see great objects through small crannies or holes, so you may see great axioms of nature through small and contemptible instances.
Bacon (1561-1626)
- 5362 Knowledge always desires increase; it is like fire, which must first be kindled by some external agent, but which will afterwards propagate itself.
Johnson (1709-1784)
- 5363 Man is not born to solve the problem of the universe, but to find out what he has to do; and to restrain himself within the limits of his comprehension.
Goethe (1749-1832)
- 5364 The word knowledge, strictly employed, implies three things: truth, proof, and conviction.
Richard Whately (1787-1863)
- 5365 The instinctive feeling of a great people is often wiser than its wisest men.
Louis Kossuth (1802-1894)
- 5366 To be conscious that you are ignorant is a great step to knowledge.
Disraeli (1804-1881)
- 5367 Knowledge comes, but wisdom lingers.
Alfred Tennyson (1809-1892)
- 5368 To know that we know what we know, and that we do not know what we do not know, that is true knowledge.
Thoreau (1817-1862)
- 5369 Knowledge once gained casts a light beyond its own immediate boundaries.
John Tyndall (1820-1893)
- 5370 A man only understands what is akin to something already existing in himself.
Henri Frederic Amiel (1821-1881)
- 5371 Knowledge by itself does not give understanding. Nor is understanding increased by an increase of knowledge alone. Understanding depends upon the relation of knowledge to being. Understanding is the resultant of knowledge and being...It appears only when a man feels and senses what is connected with it.
Gurdjieff (1873-1949)

5372 There is a great difference between knowing a thing and understanding it. You can know a lot about something and not really understand it.

Charles Kettering (1876-1958)

5373 Just as rain exists in the clouds, butter in milk, fragrance in flowers, so also God is hidden in all these names and forms.

Sivananda (born 1887)

4. POSITIVE

5374 Because the Father of all things consists of Life and Light, whereof man is made. If, therefore, a man shall learn and understand the nature of Life and Light, then he shall pass into the eternity of Life and Light.

The Divine Pymander (BC 2500?-200 AD?)

5375 By wisdom a house is built,
and by understanding it is established;
by knowledge the rooms are filled
with all precious and pleasant riches.
A wise man is mightier than a strong man;
and a man of knowledge than he who has strength.

Proverbs (B.C. 1000?-200?)

5376 The Valley Spirit never dies.
It is called the Mysterious Female.
And the doorway of the Mysterious Female
Is the base from which Heaven and Earth spring.
It is there within us all the time.
Draw upon it as you will, it never runs dry.

Lao-Tzu (fl. B.C. 600)

5377 Amongst all things, knowledge, they say, is truly the best thing; from its not being liable ever to be stolen, from its not being purchasable, and from its being imperishable.

The Hitopadesa (600?-1100? A.D.)

5378 That jewel knowledge is great riches, which is not plundered by kinsmen, nor carried off by thieves, nor decreased by giving.

Bhavabhuti (fl. 700 A.D.)

5379 Whatever we well understand we express clearly,
and words flow with ease.

Nicholas Boileau (1636-1711)

- 5380 Knowledge is comfortable and a necessary retreat and shelter for us in advanced age, but if we do not plant it while young, it will give us no shade when we grow old.
Chesterfield (1694-1773)
- 5381 Knowledge is more than equivalent to force.
The master of mechanics laughs at strength.
Johnson (1709-1784)
- 5382 For love is ever the beginning of Knowledge,
as fire is of light.
Carlyle (1795-1881)
- 5383 Every generation enjoys the use of a vast hoard bequeathed to it by antiquity, and transmits that hoard, augmented by fresh acquisitions, to future ages.
Macaulay (1800-1859)
- 5384 Knowledge is the antidote to fear.
Emerson (1803-1882)
- 5385 The best part of our knowledge is that which teaches us where knowledge leaves off and ignorance begins.
Oliver Wendell Holmes (1809-1894)
- 5386 When we begin to understand we grow polite, happy, ingenuous.
Nietzsche (1844-1900)

5. NEGATIVE

- 5387 Of all men's miseries the bitterest is this:
to know so much and to have control over nothing.
Herodotus (B.C. 484-425)
- 5388 When there is an increase in the mode of ignorance, madness, illusion, inertia and darkness are manifested.
Bhagavad Gita (c. B.C. 400)
- 5389 He that increaseth knowledge increaseth sorrow.
Ecclesiastes (B.C. 300?)
- 5390 To know all things is not permitted.
Horace (B.C. 65-8)
- 5391 True knowledge is a virtue of the talented,
but harmful to those without discernment.
Spring water free of impurity,
entering the ocean, becomes undrinkable.
Nagarjuna (c. 100-200 A.D.)

- 5392 The first and wisest of them all professed
To know this only, that he nothing knew.
Milton (1608-1674)
- 5393 The defects of the understanding, like those of the face,
grow worse as we grow old.
La Rochefoucauld (1613-1680)
- 5394 What we do not understand we do not possess.
Goethe (1749-1832)
- 5395 The tree of knowledge is not that of life.
Byron (1788-1824)
- 5396 When a man's knowledge is not in order, the more of it he
has the greater will be his confusion.
Herbert Spencer (1820-1903)
- 5397 We do not know one millionth of one percent about anything.
Thomas A. Edison (1847-1931)
- 5398 Our knowledge is a receding mirage in an expanding desert of
ignorance.
Will Durant (1885-1981)

6. ADVICE

- 5399 Know thyself as the pride of His creation, the link
uniting divinity and matter; behold a part of God Himself
within thee; remember thine own dignity nor dare descend to
evil or meanness.
Akhenaton? (c. B.C. 1375)
- 5400 We must learn not to disassociate the airy flower from the
earthy root, for the flower that is cut off from its root
fades, and its seeds are barren, whereas the root, secure
in mother earth, can produce flower after flower and bring
their fruit to maturity.
Kabbalah (B.C. 1200?-700? A.D.)
- 5401 Get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.
Proverbs (B.C. 1000?-200?)
- 5402 Know thyself.
Chilo (fl. B.C. 560)
- 5403 When you know a thing,
hold that you know it;
when you know not a thing,
allow that you know it not;
this is knowledge.
Confucius (B.C. 551-479)

- 5404 It is well for one to know more than he says.
Plautus (B.C. 254-184)
- 5405 This precept descended from Heaven: know thyself.
Juvenal (40-125 A.D.)
- 5406 Behold but One in all things;
it is the second that leads you astray.
Kabir (1440-1518)
- 5407 If you have knowledge, let others light their candles
at it.
Thomas Fuller (1608-1661)
- 5408 There is timing in the whole life of the warrior, in his
thriving and declining, in his harmony and discord.
Similarly, there is timing in the Way of the merchant, in
the rise and fall of capital. All things entail rising and
falling timing. You must be able to discern this.
Miyamoto Musashi (1584-1645)
- 5409 There is hardly any place or any company where you may not
gain knowledge, if you please; almost everybody knows some
one thing, and is glad to talk about that one thing.
Chesterfield (1694-1773)
- 5410 All our progress is an unfolding, like the vegetable bud,
you have first an instinct, then an opinion, then a know-
ledge, as the plant has root, bud and fruit. Trust the
instinct to the end, though you can render no reason.
Emerson (1803-1882)
- 5411 The more extensive a man's knowledge of what has been done,
the greater will be his power of knowing what to do.
Disraeli (1804-1881)
- 5412 Better know nothing than half-know many things.
Nietzsche (1844-1900)
- 5413 Beware of false knowledge;
it is more dangerous than ignorance.
G. B. Shaw (1856-1950)
- 5414 Scrutinize the mystery underlying all things.
Seek in higher dimensions of understanding a meaning behind
all our sufferings.
Unmask what appears to be the caprice of human destiny -
How we long to become that which we hardly believe we are!
Pir Vilayat Inayat Khan (born 1916)

7. POTPOURRI

- 5415 Two stones build two houses, three stones build six houses, four build twenty-four houses, five build one hundred and twenty houses, six build seven hundred and twenty houses and seven build five thousand and forty houses. From thence further go and reckon what the mouth cannot express and the ear cannot hear.
Sopher Yezirah (B.C. 2000?-600 A.D.)
- 5416 If you love knowledge, you will be a master of knowledge. What you have come to know, pursue by exercise, what you have not learned, seek to add to your knowledge, for it is as reprehensible to hear a profitable saying and not grasp it as to be offered a good gift by one's friend and not accept it. Believe that many precepts are better than much wealth, for wealth quickly fails us, but precepts abide through all time.
Isocrates (B.C. 436-338)
- 5417 As the blazing fire turns firewood to ashes, so does the fire of knowledge burn to ashes all reactions to material activities.
Bhagavad Gita (c. B.C. 400)
- 5418 How can the outpouring of the divine essence flowing out of the essence give you the experience of the essence?... Henceforth there is no need for proof in order to grasp thy reality.
al-Hallaj (c. 858-922 A.D.)
- 5419 Seldom ever was any knowledge given to keep, but to impart; the grace of this rich jewel is lost in concealment.
Joseph Hall (1574-1656)
- 5420 The improvement of the understanding is for two ends: first, for our own increase of knowledge; secondly, to enable us to deliver and make out that knowledge to others.
John Locke (1632-1704)
- 5421 But honest instinct comes a volunteer;
Sure never to o'er-shoot, but just to hit,
While still too wide or short in human wit.
Pope (1688-1744)
- 5422 Reasoning at every step he treads,
Man yet mistakes his way,
Whilst meaner things, whom instinct leads,
Are rarely known to stray.
Cowper (1731-1800)

- 5423 A goose flies by a chart which the Royal Geographical Society could not improve.
Oliver Wendell Holmes (1809-1894)
- 5424 10 is the most perfect number because it includes unity, which created everything, and zero, symbol of matter and chaos, whence everything emerged. In its figures it comprehends the created and the uncreated, the commencement and the end, power and force, life and annihilation. By the study of this number, we find the relationships of all things.
Albert Pike (1809-1891)
- 5425 If a little knowledge is dangerous, where is the man who has so much as to be out of danger?
Thomas Huxley (1825-1895)
- 5426 Knowledge - The small part of ignorance that we arrange and classify.
Ambrose Bierce (1842-1914?)
- 5427 I had six honest serving men - They taught me all I knew:
Their names were Where and What and When - and Why and How and Who.
Kipling (1865-1936)